AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A printing method for printing
a pixel ~~at a gray level~~ having a gray level of x on paper
5   ~~by~~ with a printer, the printer comprising a thermal print
head and a ribbon, wherein the thermal print head comprises
a heater for heating the ribbon to print pixels from gray
levels 1 to m-1 on the paper, wherein m is a positive integer
representing possible gray levels, x is the gray level of
10   the pixel being printed, and a value n represents a
predetermined number of heating duration divisions, x being
a positive integer between 1 and m-1, inclusively, and n
being a positive integer, the method comprising:
if x is not greater than ~~a~~ the value n, heating the ribbon
15   x times and evenly distributing the heating initiation
times of the x times between the time point 0 and the
time point (m*(x-1)/n), for printing the pixel with a
gray level of ~~at gray level~~ x on the paper; and
if x is greater than the value n, heating the ribbon x times
20   and evenly distributing the heating initiation times of
the first n times between the time point 0 and the time
point (m*(n-1)/n) and distributing the heating
initiation times of the remaining x-n times after the
heating initiation time points of the first n times.
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Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein
if x is greater than ~~a~~ the value n, ~~heating the ribbon x~~
~~times and evenly distributing the heating initiation times~~
~~of the n times between the time point 0 and the time point~~
30   ~~(m*(n-1)/n) and distributing~~ the heating initiation times
of the remaining x-n times are distributed after the heating
initiation time points of the first n times in order.

3

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the more ~~heating~~ times ~~of~~ the ribbon <u>is heated</u>, the darker the gray level of the pixel printed by the heater on the

5   paper <u>is</u>.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein m is equal to ~~255~~ <u>256</u>.

10   Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the printer is a thermal printer.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the printer is a photo printer.

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Claim 7 (new): The method of claim 4, wherein n is equal to 4.

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